

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00749 031336Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 /084 W

----- 104027

R 031215Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5595

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 0607

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, BY

SUBJECT: PANMUNJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862, BUJUMBURA 0728

1. BURUNDI VOICE OF THE REVOLUTION ON SEPTEMBER 2 ANNOUNCED THAT NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM DAL KOUK HAD CALLED ON MINISTER OF NATIONAL ORIENTATION AND UPRONA PARTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BERNARD BIZINDAVYI TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM THE KOREA'S WORKERS PARTY TO THE UPRONA CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE BROADCAST SAID THAT AMBASSADOR KIM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING TO BRIEF THE MINISTER ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN KOREA, PARTICULARLY THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT. AMBASSADOR KIM SAID THIS INCIDENT WAS DOMINATING THE ATTENTION OF THE TWO KOREAS AND HAD LED TO MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS ALONG THE DEMARCATION LINE AND THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF THIRD WORLD YOUTH THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN PYONGYANG. MINISTER BIZINDAVYI IS QUOTED AS STATING IN RESPONSE THAT "THIS AGGRESSION AGAINST THE SOVERIEGN PEOPLE OF THE DPRK DISTRESSED THE PEOPLE OF BURUNDI BECAUSE OF THE FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION LINKING US AND THE COOPERATION WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO PARTIES". HE RENEWED THESE SENTIMENTS OF SOLIDARITY "WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF BURUNDI HAD ALWAYS ACCORDED THE DPRK AND MOST RECENTLY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00749 031336Z

ACCORDED IT AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO".

2. COMMENT: BIZINDAVYT'S PUBLIC STATEMENT IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO HIS OPINION EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO THE EMB POLOFF THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD PROVOKED THE INCIDENT AT PANMUNJOM. AND IT IS A STRONGER STATEMENT OF BURUNDI SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA THAN ANY MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER BWAKIRA ON HIS RETURN FROM COLOMBO. THE OFFICIAL LOVE AFFAIR BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SEEMS TO BE CONTINUING, UNAFFECTED BY PRIVATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY SOME BURUNDIAN OFFICIALS OF NORTH KOREAN PROVOCATION AT PANMUNJOM AND A CERTAIN FATIGUE WITH THE CONSTANT NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY BARRAGE OF INFORMATION AND VISITS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DMZ, AMITY, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUJUMB00749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760335-0709
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760994/aaaadcpv.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 211862, 76 BUJUMBURA 728
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANMUNJOM INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, BY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006